

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A computerized system for facilitating the creation and promotion of creative works, comprising:

 a process handling routine for receiving and processing requests for purchases of benefits relating to an undeveloped creative work;

 a storage medium for storing user information and associating the
10 patron information to the undeveloped creative work selected by the user;

 an accounting routine that aggregates monetary amounts for use in development of the undeveloped creative work; and

 a benefit redemption routine having access to the patron
15 information stored in the storage medium, for facilitating notification of patrons associated with a particular undeveloped creative work concerning availability of their purchased benefits.

 2. The computerized system of claim 1, further comprising
20 means for disseminating to user-interactive devices presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works.

3. The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises a web server coupled to a storage medium having stored thereon one or more web pages containing the presentation information

4. The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises software instructions for executing steps whereby the presentation information is downloaded to remote computerized machines configured to allow a plurality of different potential patrons to review the presentation information

5. The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises a portable storage medium comprising software instructions for execution on a remote patron computer and data files comprising at least a portion of said presentation information

6. The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said presentation information exists in static form on a printed or magnetic medium.

7. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the process handling routine receives electronic payment information from the patron

5 8. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the process handling routine collects patron information including the name of the patron and the patron's e-mail address, and associates the patron information with the undeveloped creative work and the purchased benefit

10 9. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the benefit redemption routine uses the patron's email address to notify the patron concerning the availability of the patron's purchased benefit

15 10. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

11. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a discount relating to merchandise or service relating
20 to the creative work.

12. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a copy of or discount on a creative work different from

the undeveloped creative work or to other merchandise or services unrelated to the undeveloped creative work.

13. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein data in the
5 storage medium is updated to include presentation information relating to in-progress development or completion of the creative work.

14. The computerized system of claim 13, wherein the updated presentation information comprises audio and/or visual data.

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15. The computerized system of claim 13, further comprising an update notification routine having access to the patron information, stored in the storage medium, for facilitating notification of patrons associated with a particular undeveloped creative work concerning the
15 updated presentation information

16. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, and wherein a patron may obtain the purchased benefit electronically by accessing the
20 computerized system and requesting electronic transmission of the digital data to a patron's computer

17. The computerized system of claim 1, wherein said creative work is not specified by the patron.

18. A method, comprising the steps of:

5 providing presentation information concerning an undeveloped creative work;

receiving and processing requests for purchases of predefined benefits relating to the undeveloped creative work;

storing patron information and associating the patron information
10 to the undeveloped creative work;

aggregating monetary amounts received from the patrons for the undeveloped creative work; and

electronically notifying the patrons associated with the undeveloped creative work concerning attainment of the predefined
15 benefits.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing presentation information concerning the undeveloped creative work comprises the step of displaying presentation information about the
20 undeveloped creative work at a computerized device in response to a patron request entered via the computerized device.

20. The method of claim 19, where said patron request is received electronically over a distributed network from a remote patron computer.

5 21. The method of claim 19, wherein said step of providing presentation information concerning the undeveloped creative work further comprises the step of electronically disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works to a remote user-interactive device.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein said presentation information is electronically disseminated by a web server coupled to a storage medium having stored thereon one or more web pages containing the presentation information.

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23. The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing information related to an undeveloped creative work comprises the step of storing, on a portable storage medium readable at a remote patron computer, software instructions for execution on the remote patron
20 computer and data files comprising at least a portion of said presentation information.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said presentation information exists in static form on a printed or portable magnetic medium.

5 25. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of receiving electronic payment information from the patron

26. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
collecting patron information including the name of the patron and
10 the patron's e-mail address; and
associating the patron information with the undeveloped creative work and the purchased benefit.

27. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of
15 utilizing the patron's email address to electronically notify the patron concerning availability of the patron's predefined benefit.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

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29. The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a discount relating to merchandise or service relating to the creative work.

30. The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount on a creative work different from the undeveloped creative work or to other merchandise or services unrelated
5 to the undeveloped creative work.

31. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing selective access by patrons purchasing predefined benefits relating to the undeveloped creative work to updated or additional
10 presentation information relating to in-progress development or completion of the creative work.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the updated or additional presentation information comprises audio and/or visual data relating to
15 in-progress development or completion of the creative work.

33. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of electronically notifying patrons associated with a particular undeveloped creative work concerning the updated or additional presentation
20 information.

34. The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving through electronic means a request from a patron to
5 obtained the predefined benefit; and

electronically transmitting the digital data to a remote patron computer.

35. A computerized system for facilitating the creation and
10 promotion of creative works, comprising:

a patron transaction handler for conveying visual and/or audio information about one or more undeveloped creative works to remote computerized devices over an electronic network for presentation to potential patrons, said patron transaction handler processing requests
15 received over the electronic network from the remote computerized devices for purchases of predefined future benefits relating to selected ones of the undeveloped creative works;

a storage medium for storing patron information and associating the patron information to the undeveloped creative work selected by the
20 user;

an accounting engine that aggregates monetary amounts from the patrons for each of the undeveloped creative works; and

a benefit redemption processing engine having access to the patron information stored in the storage medium, for electronically notifying those patrons having purchased predefined benefits relating to a particular creative work concerning availability or attainment of their predefined benefits.

36. The computerized system of claim 35, wherein said patron transaction handler is configured to transmit to the remote computerized devices an identification of a plurality of categories of creative works, and to cause visual and/or audio information to be presented to users concerning only those undeveloped creative works in one or more categories interactively selected by the user.

37. The computerized system of claim 36, wherein said categories include one or more of motion pictures, television productions, books, musical works, sculptural works, or still image visual works.

38. The computerized system of claim 35, further comprising:
means for adding and associating with particular creative works updated or additional audio and/or visual presentation information relating to in-progress development of the creative work;

means for providing selective access to the updated or additional audio and/or visual presentation information for patrons having purchased predefined benefits relating to the creative work.

5 39. The computerized system of claim 35, wherein said predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

10 40. The computerized system of claim 35, wherein the predefined benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, and wherein said benefits processing engine comprises means for transmitting the digital data to a patron at the patron's request.